

ESCALANTE VALLEY, UTAH

1976 - 1977

The 1976-1977 water year was characterized by a drought which left most of the state short of adequate water supplies as well as the Escalante Valley.

Although the water year precipitation totals do not adequately reflect this condition (average of Milford, Minersville and Beaver) total accumulation of the three months of December 1976 thru February 1977 amounted to about 0.53 inches, 60% of normal. The limited winter precipitation and snowfall in mountains resulted in much below normal surface runoff during the spring snowmelt.

The situation was eased somewhat by heavy rains in May (averaging 1.70 inches, 224% of normal) and continued this wet pattern in July and August.

The monthly temperature data during the year showed no significant departures with most months near normal. The largest departure was during June when temperatures averaged about 3 degrees above normal.

Streamflow for the water year at Beaver, Utah was 7,360 acre-feet, 32% of the 15-year (1958-72) average, establishing a new record low flow dating back to when records began in 1914. The previous record low year was 8,300 acre-feet in 1972. The flow on the Beaver River has been below normal for the last 19 months.

October-December precipitation in 1977 indicates that streamflow is likely to be below normal but higher than last year, about 75% of normal.

TABLE I

Weather Data for Stations in or near Escalante Valley, Utah

Milford Area 1975 - 1977

Milford Area 1975 - 1977												WATER YEAR TOTAL	CAL. YEAR TOTAL
MILFORD WSO	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	
Temperature													
1975	49.9	37.9	25.5	24.2	30.2	37.6	39.5	49.9	62.4	73.1	69.2	62.7	46.8
1976	47.8	33.4	28.9	26.2	34.4	32.3	44.7	58.1	63.5	74.7	68.6	62.9	48.0
1977	47.4	37.6	26.6	25.5	32.7	33.6	49.4	52.3	68.7	73.6	72.2	63.4	48.7
1941-70 Avg.	50.7	37.3	28.6	25.7	31.4	38.1	47.2	56.5	65.2	74.3	72.6	63.0	49.2
Precipitation													
1975	1.29	.38	.16	.35	.50	1.80	.60	1.87	.70	1.37	.74	.02	9.78
1976	.35	.76	.46	.37	1.67	1.06	1.18	.34	.07	1.08	.15	.43	7.92
1977	1.13	.48	.05	.21	.10	.77	.39	1.89	.20	1.09	1.57	.20	8.08
1941-70 Avg.	.78	.67	.73	.61	1.70	1.04	.90	.61	.56	.51	.68	.61	8.40
MINERSVILLE													
Temperature													
Precipitation													
1975	1.99	.54	.23	.39	.51	1.30	1.46	2.02	.40	3.90	.77	.26	13.77
1976	.47	.69	.53	.30	1.65	1.22	1.10	.26	.06	2.50	.83	.41	10.02
1977	1.14	.91	.09	.40	.20	1.00	.13	1.68	.74	2.86	1.05	1.40	11.60
1941-70 Avg.	.83	.82	.76	.71	.83	1.15	.97	.67	.52	.86	1.18	.71	10.01
JEFFERSON													
Temperature													
1975	48.5	37.4	26.3	26.5	30.0	35.0	36.3	48.9	59.4	67.4	64.6	58.8	44.9
1976	46.9	35.1	31.7	28.7	35.8	34.1	44.2	56.3	63.2	70.5	65.9	60.8	47.8
1977	46.5	39.3	30.5	27.5	34.0	34.9	47.6	51.0	66.1	69.7	68.6	61.4	48.1
1941-70 Avg.	48.9	36.8	29.6	27.7	31.7	36.9	45.3	53.9	61.8	69.3	67.6	60.0	47.5
Precipitation													
1975	1.55	.36	.22	.93	.72	1.45	1.47	1.89	.40	1.66	1.17	.87	12.69
1976	.45	.60	.61	.33	1.18	1.04	.84	.40	.05	2.25	.30	1.11	9.16
1977	.98	.62	.11	.27	.18	.83	.53	1.53	.61	2.78	.89	.69	10.02
1941-70 Avg.	.88	.71	.85	.77	.95	1.00	1.14	1.00	.74	1.10	1.00	.85	11.33